

MANUFACTURES

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The loom products had little variety: coarse, thin cotton²⁸⁶ blankets of small size, a skirt for a girl during her puberty rite, men's belts, old men's headbands, and the binding bands for cradles were all they had. The cotton blankets served as bed-^[512]ding: they may sometimes have been used to draw over the ^[291]shoulders but they were certainly not a part of the ordinary costume. The poncho was unknown and cloth was never deliberately cut to make a garment. All of the articles were made of cotton yarn. The blankets were plain, except such as may have had a decorated selvage; the narrow bands invariably had de-^[531]signs.

The weaving art is now moribund, only cradle bands being¹¹⁵ made and but few of these. Hence it is difficult to get wholly²⁸⁶ adequate information. With the aid of a make-shift loom we attempted to get a description of blanket weaving from old Kutox, but he, nearly blind and with crippled fingers, could not demonstrate at crucial points. Last Star, who had himself never seen weaving, gave what must be an essentially correct account of blanket weaving. On the other hand, thoroughly adequate information on the making of cradle bands was had from Mary Juan, a young and skillful weaver, who wove at my request.

Bartlett's information on Pima and Maricopa confirms mine.¹¹¹

"Cotton is raised by them, which they spin and weave. Their only manufac-²⁸⁶ tures consist of blankets of various textures and sizes; a heavy cloth of the same^[249] material used by the women to put around their loins; and an article from three to four inches wide, used as a band for the head, or a girdle for the waist. The blankets are woven with large threads, slightly twisted and without any nap. They are made of white cotton, and are without ornament of colors or figures, save a narrow selvage of buff. . . . The operation, of course, progresses slowly; and from the length of time consumed in spinning and weaving, they set a high price upon their blankets, asking for these ten or twelve dollars in money, or a^[531] new woolen blanket of equal size. The weaving is generally done by the old^[435] men."

Bartlett's illustration shows the weaver sitting on the finished portion of the blanket he has under way.⁶

Loom products were considered quite valuable, especially the²⁸⁶ cotton blankets. These were about the size of our small bed^[475]

⁶ Bartlett, *Personal Narrative*, II, 224-26.

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his youth. It was, by my evidence, an old man's art, yet this ob-
servation that a young man wove or assisted may be true.

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Cotton was alone used in weaving. Such possible substitutes as mountain sheep or dog hair were not used. Nor was sheep wool used since the advent of the whites: so far as I know, the Maricopa neither own sheep now nor had them formerly. The cotton cultivated in earlier days was white, not brown; growing on bushes waist-high or little more, and not like the man-high bushes of modern varieties of cotton grown in this district. It proved impossible to obtain any specimens of ancient cotton: it has entirely disappeared. Hrdlička observed (1905):

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According to information obtained from an old Maricopa, about forty years ago the people of his tribe planted native cotton, with which the men wove large decorated blankets.

They ginned the cotton by first beating it with a little stick. Then, spreading it on a flat stone, they rolled a smooth arrowweed across it to remove the seeds. This lap was layed aside; then others were similarly prepared and laid on the first. This was women's work alone. Day after day was spent in preparation until the necessary amount was accumulated.

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The cleaned cotton was then spread on a smooth spot on the ground, over which clean sand had been sprinkled. A scraped arrowweed, about the size of an arrow, was strung to form a taut little bow. The bowstring was held close above the cotton and then plucked. The "tooth" of the string caught up the loose fibers; its vibration wrapped them into a compact roll around the string. This was then pulled off the string to serve as a sliver ready for spinning." The first step was to roll the sliver into a loose yarn between palm and thigh.

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"The cotton plucking bow must have had an interesting history in America: its ultimate source was Asia. My Maricopa informant ascribed its use to the Pima as well. He did not know whether the Papago had it. Doubtless they had, for, farther south Dr. Ralph Beals found it in 1931 in use among the Mayo (near the Rio Mayo and Navajon, Sonora) for plucking wool fibers for spinning. The source for these tribes must have been the missions of northern Mexico. It occurs in South America, where Nordenskiöld records its distribution through the southern Amazon basin and southward. He writes: "We have here a cultural element that the Indians probably got from the Portuguese, presumably, as in the case of

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462 and bodies in the task. I have seen women thus employed when the thermometer stood at 110°, while their lords lay stretched out at length on their backs looking on.

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415 Water is invariably brought by the women in large earthen vessels upon their heads resting upon a small cushion. Some of these vessels hold six gallons. This mode of carrying burdens, by which the body is kept in a perfectly erect position, tends greatly to develope the chest and add to the general beauty of the figure. Hence we see among the Indians, as well as among the lower class of Mexicans, forms which Walker might well have taken for models in his "Analysis of Beauty in Women."

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As the manners and customs of the Pimos and Coco-Maricopas are the same, with the exception of their rites of burial, I shall include both in describing these customs; although there is little doubt but that the knowledge of the arts which they possess originated with the Pimos. Cotton is raised by them,* which they spin and weave. Their only manufactures consist of blankets of various textures and sizes; a heavy cloth of the same material used by the women to put around their loins; and an article from three to four inches wide, used as a band for the head, or a girdle for the waist. The blankets are woven with large threads, slightly twisted and without any nap. They are made of white cotton, and are without ornament of colors or figures, save a narrow selvage of buff.

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* I brought home with me the seeds with samples of this cotton, which was pronounced equal to the best Sea Island. The seeds I distributed among various planters.